

**Sociology 4451: Sociology of Medicine
Spring 2018 Syllabus**

Course Location: 209 Coates Hall

Course Meeting Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday 12pm to 1:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Rhiannon Kroeger

Office Location: 108 Stubbs Hall

Office Hours: 1:30pm to 3pm Tuesday/Thursday (and by appointment)

Email: rkroeger@lsu.edu

Course Objectives:

In this course we will examine social causes and patterns of health and disease. For instance, we will ask the question, how do factors like social class, race/ethnicity, gender, or marital status work to get “under the skin” to influence health outcomes? In addition, we will consider the functions of health organizations in society and will seek to understand the social behavior of health care providers and their patients.

Course Goals:

1. To understand how stratification on the basis of factors such as social class, race/ethnicity, and gender is related to inequalities in health and illness across the life course.
2. To understand the functions of health care organizations and how health care systems are related to other social systems in the United States.
3. To strengthen critical reading of scholarly research articles in the area of medical sociology.

Course Texts:

Cockerham, William C. 2017. *Medical Sociology*. 14th ed

Attendance and participation policy

Attendance is REQUIRED. I will take attendance each time we meet. Each student can miss TWO class sessions without consequence. Each absence beyond these two “freebees” will result in a 5% deduction from your overall attendance/participation grade. More specifically, your attendance/participation grade will be determined in two stages: (1) You cannot participate without attending class. Therefore, your attendance record will determine how many overall points you can possibly get. If you miss less than two classes, your participation grade may be as high as 100%. If you miss three classes, your grade can be no higher than 95%, since you will have had 5 percent deducted due to your third absence. If you miss four classes, your grade can be no higher than 90%, etc. (2) Merely attending each class will not award you full points. Class participation is central to the course and requires you to be an active participant rather than a spectator. If you attend class, I will assume you have done the readings and may call on you. I will expect you to contribute to class discussion. We will also have in-class assignments that count toward class participation, including group work and individual work that cannot be made up at a later date. If it becomes apparent that students are not completing required readings, I will begin classes with pop quizzes that will count toward your participation grade.

NOTE: If you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate, as you remain responsible for all class materials. I suggest you arrange a “buddy system” for this purpose (i.e. get names and contact information for three colleagues). My lecture notes will not be available to students.

Late assignments

All assignments will be submitted on Moodle. Paper grades are deducted by 5% for each day they are late. Papers turned in late on the due date are penalized as one day late.

Missed exams

There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of medical or family emergencies, which must be documented. NOTE: Each student taking a make-up exam will receive a unique exam that differs from the exam taken by the rest of the class.

In the classroom

Please make sure that your cell phone will not ring during class time, an

Cheating and plagiarism policy

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated! Please see the student code of conduct if you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism:

(<http://www.law.lsu.edu/academics/codeofstudentconduct/>)

Statement on Disability

Any student with a documented disability (via LSU disability services) needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

Important Dates:	
22-Feb	Reaction Paper on Turney due
01-Mar	Midterm Exam
22-Mar	Reaction Paper on Welch et al. due
26-Apr	Reaction Paper on JHSB research article of your choice due
01-May	4

Assignment Descriptions:

Exams (30% each): We will have two in-class exams in the course. The exams may be a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay. Exam questions will require you to synthesize and analyze the course readings and information covered in lectures.

Reaction Papers (10% each): You will write three reaction papers to scholarly journal articles. The first two reaction papers are based on articles that are assigned for the semester, all of which are posted on Moodle. The third reaction paper will be based on a scholarly journal article of your choosing published in the American Sociological Association's flagship medical sociology journal, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (JHSB). Each reaction paper should address the following questions:

1. What was the purpose of the authors' study? E.g. what were the authors' central research questions or hypotheses?
2. How did the authors conduct their study? E.g. what analytic methods were used, what data were used, etc?
3. What are the results of the authors' analysis? Did the results support the authors' argument or not?
4. What conclusions do the authors make from their results (i.e. what is their interpretation of the findings)?
5. What do you like about the study? What do you dislike about the study?

Note: For point #2 in the list above, some of the papers employ complex quantitative methods. In this case, if you are comfortable you may walk through the exact methods they use. However, if you are not comfortable walking through the exact methods used, you may simply say that they use 'quantitative methods' and then describe the data used.

